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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jeffrey S. Poulin
Serial No.: 10/803,856
Confirmation No.: 6542
Filed: March 18, 2004
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

Examiner: Bass, Jon M.
Art Unit: 3639

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 18th day of December, 2006.

Eileen MacKenzie
Eileen MacKenzie

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-31 are currently pending in this application and the application as presented is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly being unpatentable over Connelly (6,459,953). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In Applicant's response mailed January 17, 2006, Applicant noted that Connelly fails to disclose or suggest, "receiving a stream of mail pieces that includes at least one business reply mail piece and at least one non-business reply mail piece," as recited in claims 1 and 11, and further fails to disclose or suggest, "at least one feeder unit that receives a stream of mail pieces